

Volume 2, Issue 11



Ouranophantor

November 2019



A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



Church Office: info@stbasilchicago.org

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Telephone: 312-243-3738

Phone: 847-558-9849

Office Fax: 312-243-7961

email: frdimitri@stbasilchicago.org

Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy

Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 6:30 a.m.

Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

November 2, 2019

- + Dress a Girl Sew-a-thon from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Basil's Philoptochos Hall

November 10, 2019

- + Fall General Assembly

+

November 3, 2019

- + Girl's Ministry — Cards for Dress a Girl, immediately following Divine Liturgy at St. Basil's Philoptochos Hall

November 9, 2019

- + St. Basil's Sip and Paint Event from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at St. Basil's Philoptochos Hall

November 10, 2019

- + Girl's Ministry Cookies for Veterans Event, immediately following Divine Liturgy at St. Basil's Philoptochos Hall

November 17, 2019

- + Stewardship Sunday

November 23, 2019

- + Family Retreat from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Kansasville, WI

We welcome new families to our parish.

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese.

Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

40-Day Blessings:



October 27, 2019

Konstantinos Lawrence
son of
Lauren & Thomas Arvanitis

October 27, 2019

Stelios
son of
Marie Munoz & Michael Scardina

Baptisms:



October 12, 2019

John
son of
MerryBeth and Michael Vithoulkas
Sponsor: Kyle & Paige Shanahan

October 26, 2019

Georgia Efrosyni
daughter of
Zaharias & Kalliopi Fountas
Sponsor: Ioannis Fountas

Chrismations:



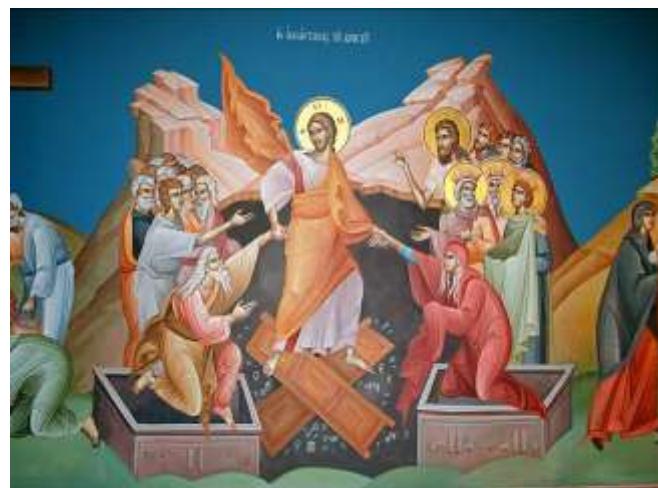
Weddings:



October 13, 2019

Melanie Walstrom & William Neuman
Sponsor: Dorothea Walstrom

Funerals:



Father Dimitri's Message



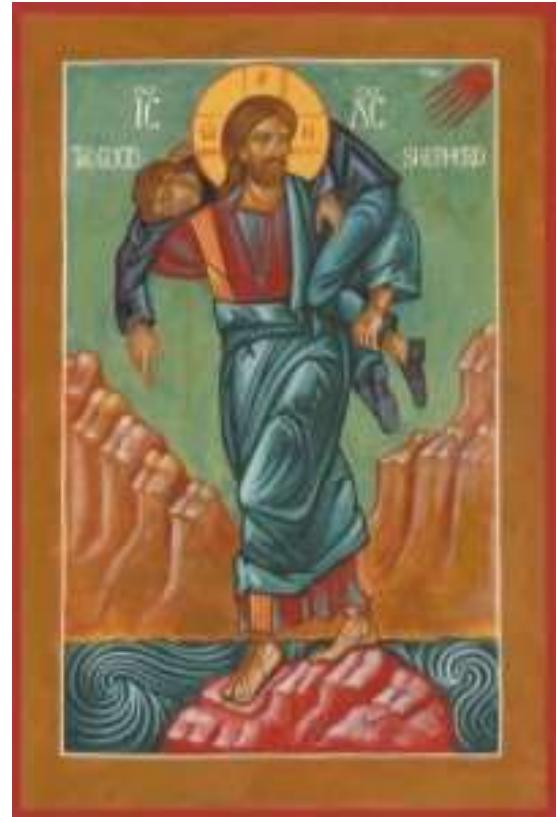
My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The leaves have changed color, the temperature has dropped, the sniffles have started, and the lawns of neighbors are filled with the festive decorations of the holiday du jour. For many people, this is their favorite time of year. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Valentine's Day. One after another, these holidays come forward in the winter that bring many people together . . . yet why is it that people are more depressed during the holidays?

Statistics show that while December is a lower month for suicides, right after Christmas and into February there is a 40% up-tick according to [healthline.com](https://www.healthline.com). While much of this can be attributed to unrealistic expectations, financial pressures, and too many commitments causing stress at holiday time ([medicine.net](https://www.medicine.net)), the Orthodox perspective sees another answer to this depression.

We see an unabashed focus on the self during this period. My costume for Halloween, my family relationships for Thanksgiving, my gifts for Christmas, my resolutions for New Year, and my love-life for Valentine's day. We set up idyllic, Hollywood expectations for each of these events and with each passing year, the exuberance of childhood fades into a dull ache of longing. But why?

The Orthodox perspective would see it as an unhealthy fascination with personal reflection of the wrong variety. Instead of looking at me, why am I not looking to God? Instead of thinking about costumes on Halloween, why am I not learning about the saints? Instead of thinking about the dysfunctions in my family (all families have them), why am I not thinking of being grateful to God for His rich mercy? Instead of pining for a material gift, why am I not rejoicing with the angels at the birth of our Lord and King? Instead of worrying about resolutions I might not keep, such as losing weight or learning Spanish, why do I not commit myself to Church, to praying daily with my family, or keeping the fast Holy?



Instead of worrying about who I am to be with or why my romantic life is not like in a movie, why do I not commit myself to making my relationship better or to trusting in God to find the right match for me that will bring me closer to His kingdom?

We have to shift our paradigm in order to reflect a healthier expectation. If the attention is no longer on the self, but on the other, the holidays take on a beautiful, deeper meaning. Given that Halloween and Thanksgiving are not Orthodox holidays, one can look deeper to see the love of saints and gratitude towards our Merciful Lord all year long. Christmas can become a call to action to be an incarnation of love in the lives of others just as our Lord Jesus Christ became for us when He took on humanity in His birth. New Year can be better turned to reflect on the Circumcision of the Lord, which reflects the promise of Abraham. We too can honor our promises to God by reflecting on our baptism. Though the Orthodox celebrate St. Valentine's Day in July, not February, we can look to what the saint died for. He died not for lustful love, but for holy matrimony, the love of marriage and self-sacrifice.

If we shift our way of thinking away from ourselves, we can see that although the meaning of the holidays has changed from when we were children, this does not make them depressing or less important. Rather, they become larger.

1 Corinthians 13:11 -*When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.*"

Let us joyfully welcome the holidays for all of the right reasons. Let us honor the Holy Fast as we prepare for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior. Let us love one another!

I remain your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink. It begins with a stylized cross (+) followed by the letters "Fr." and the name "Dimitri" in a cursive script. Below the name is a horizontal flourish or underline.

Fr. Dimitri Tobias, Proistamenos

Parish Council Update

By Themistocles Frangos

Dear St. Basil Parishioners and Friends of St. Basil,

Fall is upon us as the leaves are changing colors and the Chicago Bears are in the prime of their schedule. Things have picked up at St. Basil with ministries in full swing after a successful Ministry Fair in September. Participation in the ministries of St. Basil allows us to do God's work, and we encourage everyone interested in joining a ministry to either reach out to the stewardship committee, Fr. Dimitri, or the church office to be connected with the ministry chairs. A list of ministries can be found on the church website.

St. Basil hosted the annual conference of the Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians of the Metropolis of Chicago from October 4 to 6. The weekend was packed with activities culminating in over 70 members of various choirs from throughout the Metropolis participating in the liturgy on Sunday at St. Basil. The weekend was a great success due to the leadership of co-chairs George Panagopoulos and Melita Green. The parish council would also like to thank all the choir members and parishioners who stepped up to help plan, set up, serve food, welcome the guests, and do so much more to make it a successful weekend. It was truly a group effort, and thank you to everyone for your help.

As 2019 quickly comes to a close, we want to remind everyone of a few important things. First, the St. Basil General Assembly will be held on Sunday, November 10 after liturgy. It's important for all stewards of the church to be present to conduct the church business. If you have not become a steward in 2019, there is still time to submit your pledge. Second, Stewardship Sunday will be November 17, which will kick off the 2020 stewardship drive. 2019 has been an excellent year for stewardship at St. Basil, and we are looking to continue the growth in 2020. Stewardship packets for 2020 will be available every Sunday in November.

Third, The prison ministry's Angel Tree program will be in high gear during November and December. We encourage parishioners to participate by buying Christmas gifts for children of inmates whose families live in the area surrounding our church. This program has become a holiday tradition at St. Basil.

Finally, do you know how to paint? Want to learn to paint? Or just want to socialize? The fall fundraiser this year will be a Sip and Paint event on Saturday, November 9, to be held at the church. If you are interested in attending or need more information, please contact the chairperson, Venus Campanelli, or the church office.

Sincerely,

Themistocles Frangos
Parish Council Secretary

Philoptochos Update

By Nichole Kourvas Drimonas

Happy Fall!

One of the most important parts of our Philoptochos mission is to help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, and the victims of disasters. As the weather gets colder, these groups of people need even more help. St. Basil Philoptochos takes pride in participating in different events, fundraisers, and projects to get help to those in need.

As the temperature drops and your home warms, please think about and pray for those that do not have proper shelter, clothing, food, or care. We are always open to new ideas and ways to offer our support. Please consider joining our Philoptochos chapter and sharing your thoughts with us and help us expand our projects and resources to help others.

Stop by the church office for more information.

Nichole Kourvas Drimonas,
President, St. Basil Philoptochos



Stewardship Update

By Maria-Kanella Koper



It's not too late to complete your 2019 stewardship. You can sign up at <http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/stewardship/> or pick up a pamphlet at the pangari.

2019 Snapshot (*As of October 24, 2019*)

| Stewards | Pledged | Collected |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 174 | \$218,708 | \$185,753 |

November is Stewardship Month at St. Basil's. Please join us every Sunday to hear from your fellow parishioners on what Saint Basil's and the Orthodox Faith means to them.

Stewardship Sunday is on November 17th. Join us for a presentation during coffee hour to review all the wonderful accomplishments of 2019 and the plans for 2020.

We are still looking for new members to join the stewardship team who are interested in helping grow the engagement of parishioners and new members at St. Basil. Stewardship Ministry meetings will be announced in the weekly bulletin, please join us, we'd love to have you! If you are interested in being part of the team, please contact Maria-Kanella Koper at mariakkoper@gmail.com.

Saint Basil Stewardship Ministry wants to hear from you. Have any questions, comments, ideas, or feedback? Let us know how we're doing so that we can better serve our church.

Have you become a steward of St. Basil's? Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Stewardship" to learn more, or contact the church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)

Yiayia's Kouzina Update

By Cynthia Schroeder

Yiayia's Kouzina has completed baking koulouria for breast cancer awareness month. The koulouria are for sale in the Philoptochos Hall. Thank you to everyone who has supported this important cause.

We have begun our Christmas baking. We started with koulouria and baklava. We were also pleased that the IIT students assisted us with making the baklava.

Remaining days are:

- + Saturday, November 9, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- + Wednesday, November 13, from 3:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Packaging will occur on Saturday, December 14, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Orders can be picked up on Sunday, December 15, in Philoptochos Hall.

If there any questions, please contact me at 708-769-4084.

Thank You, Cindy.



St. Basil Choir

By Melita Green

St. Basil had the distinct honor of hosting the Choir Federation's 62nd Annual Church Music Conference on October 6, 2019. See updates below from members of the St. Basil Choir regarding this glorious event:

George Panagopoulos: I'd like to say a very special thank you to the community and choir of St. Basil for all of your hard work to make the 2019 Choir Conference a success. God Bless you all! Thanks to you Father for your spiritual guidance, which has given me hope. A CD of the 2019 Choir Conference Liturgy is available for \$15. See the order form on page 9.

Costa Gus Drugas: On behalf of the St. Basil Choir we would like to thank you, our St. Basil family, for making our 62nd Annual Choir Conference a success. Thank you to our generous donors Billy Goat Tavern, Pete's Produce, Cermak Produce, and McDonald's for their generous sponsorship. Thank you to our food sponsors Jedi's Garden and Palace Grill. Thank you to all those who donated to the ad book. To our volunteers Steve and Pat Cole, Mary and Lambros Peroulas, Eugenia Makris, Eleni and Gus Sarolas, Kathy Michas, Phyllis Koumantis, and Johnathan Ramirez, who graciously donated their time and talent to serve our participants. To our beautiful Philoptochos thank you for the sweets. Thank you to our committee chairs Marcie Papadakis, Sophia Haritos, Emily Papachristou, and Melita Green for their countless hours of preparing. Thank you to our talented office staff Vicky Crosby and Nick Katsoulis for helping us every day with all of our administrative needs. Thank you to Mrs. Frangas for making all the dipses and Stella Kapetan for the amazing cheesecakes. To our Parish Council, we appreciate the love and support you gave us through the year. To our talented Georgia Pappas Fragale and George Panagopoulos thank you for leading our choir every Sunday and at the Conference. To our Choir Federation board, in particular Nick Chimitris, thank you for your guidance. Thank you to Rythmos band for entertaining us on Saturday. Thank you to all who placed an ad in our ad book. Thank you to Tony Kidonakis for his amazing entertainment at our talent show. Thank you to John Chioros for building a stage that added to the venue. Thank you Christina Kidonakis for your amazing workshop on Byzantine music. Thanks to Lex Alexander for professional photos of the Liturgy and choir. Thank you to our Spiritual Father, Metropolitan Nathanael Symeonides for celebrating the Divine Liturgy and your continued support of our choirs. Thank you to Father Dimitri Tobias for your love and support of our choir and for keeping us in line. A special thank you to Valerie Karras for her directing talents over the weekend. If I missed anyone, my apologies, but we thank you all again for your love and support. Glory be to God!

Melita Green: St. Basil parishioners offered their usual hospitality to the Choir Federation members to the extent that we heard only praise for our efforts. One person said that if she didn't live so far away she would consider coming to St. Basil. Food servers, parking attendants, and greeters all enthusiastically welcomed our guests. Thank you for your wonderful hospitality.

A special thank you to George Panagopoulos for the vision of hosting the 62nd Choir Conference. Several choir members had little experience with the Federation before he suggested hosting the annual conference. His vision inspired us to push our limits, work as a team, and set a higher standard for our choir. We are grateful to George for his commitment and leadership of our choir.

Thank you to the Parish Council and Fr. Panteleimon Dalianis who approved of St. Basil hosting the 2019 conference way back in 2016. Thank you to the current Parish Council and Fr. Dimitri Tobias for guiding us through the planning and execution of this conference.



Choir Federation CD Recording Order Form

Hierarchical Liturgy – St. Basil Church in Chicago, IL
Sunday, October 6, 2019

A professional recording was created of the October 6th Liturgy to allow you to have a keepsake of this beautiful church service with the voices of the Chicago Metropolis: Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians at their 62nd Annual Conference. You may wish to gift a copy of this liturgy to a shut-in, a friend or relative. It will make a great gift to send to a loved one, and we will make every effort to mail your CD by Christmas.

Each CD is just \$15 postage paid if mailed to any address in the U.S.A. Complete the order form below and include your payment. Make your check or money order payable to: **FGOCM** (Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians).

Mail all orders to: Nick Paloumpis
925 Cherry Lane
Lombard, IL 60148

If you have any questions, please contact Nick at: holyapostleschoir@yahoo.com

+++++
ORDER FORM:

Please send _____ CD recordings of the Divine Liturgy – Sunday, October 6, 2019

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$15 per CD) postage included if mailed in the United States.

Mail to: _____
(Please print)

Address: _____
|

City/State/Zip Code _____

If you are ordering additional CD's to be mailed to a second location, please include that information on the back of this form. Thank you.

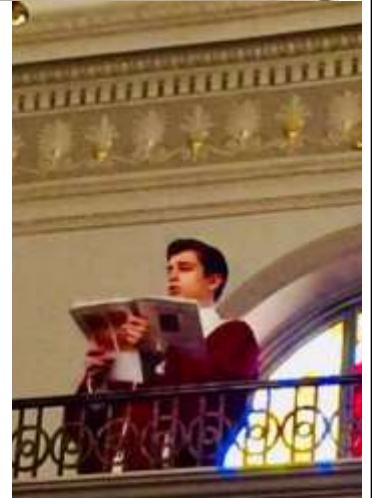
OFFICE USE ONLY

Payment: Cash/Ck# _____

Order received on: _____

Mailed on: _____

62nd Annual Choir Conference — St. Basil (October 6, 2019)





St. Basil Prison Ministry

By Pat Cole

St. Basil Church Prison Ministry

2019 Angel Tree Christmas Program

Reaching out to Families with Incarcerated Loved Ones



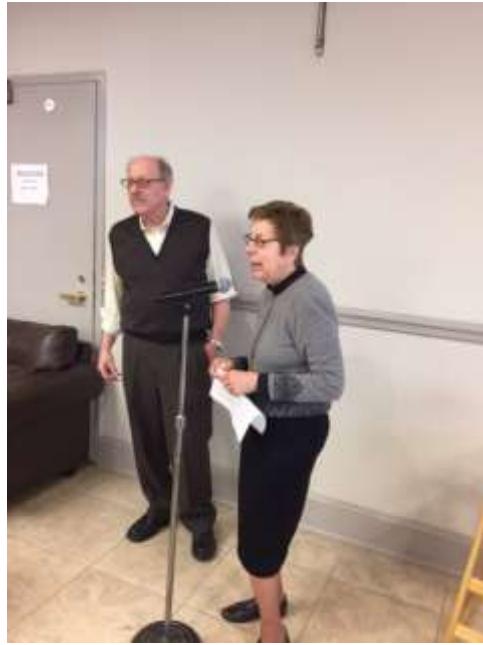
2018 Delivery Team

Thank You St. Basil Church

Ways You Can Help

- Make calls from home to Angel Tree families, to determine best gifts for the children, **November 1-20**
- On **November 24, December 1, and December 8** select from the “Angel Tree” names of children to provide gifts for
- Bring in and sort wrapped gifts, **December 8 and 15**
- Deliver gifts to families, Saturday, **December 21, 8:30 – 11:00 am**
- Make a contribution to the ministry

St. Basil Prison Ministry—Pancake Breakfast (October 27, 2019)



Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

Recently an e-mail was sent to all parents with an updated schedule filled with important dates and prayers, along with a quick survey. Parents please take the time to complete the survey. It's only four questions. Your feedback is important to our team so we can provide meaningful programming for our families at St. Basil.

I would like to share with the curriculum for the 2019-2020 school year with you. Grades K-1st are learning from the text Together with God. Grades 2nd-4th are learning from the text Growing with God. Grades 5th-7th are using the curriculum We Worship God in Church. All curriculum is approved and provided by The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Recently all classes visited with Father Dimitri at the altar to discuss how he vests himself for Divine Liturgy, and the holy articles on the altar table and the table of oblation. Also, a lovely prayer book was constructed by teachers Marina and Ed for all student families. The prayers are explained so each family can read together and so the children understand the meaning of each prayer.

If your family has not received a prayer book, please let your teacher know. Please be sure to use the prayer books with your family.

If you have not already done so, please be sure that your child is registered for Sunday School. On November 3, 2019, teachers will be assigning roles for our annual St. Basil Christmas Pageant. Attendance is mandatory for participation in the pageant.

A special thanks to Father Dimitri and our Sunday School teachers for their continued hard work, dedication, and thoughtfulness.



Coffee Hour Ministry

The Coffee Hour Ministry at St. Basil allows parishioners the opportunity to host coffee hour twice a month. It's a great way to get involved and promote fellowship at St. Basil while getting to know one another better.

Coffee Hour Ministry 2020: We are looking for volunteers to either host a coffee hour or participate in one of our pot luck luncheons with a team of other parishioners for 2020. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at 312-243-3738.

We thank everyone who has volunteered to host a coffee hour in 2019.



| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Sunday, November 3 | Coffee Hour Ministry: Skourletos Family |
| Sunday, November 10 | Coffee Hour: Stewardship Ministry |
| Sunday, November 17 | Coffee Hour Ministry: Dr. Sophia Sarkos and Dr. Robert Barnes |
| Sunday, November 24 | Coffee Hour: Philoptochos |

Someone You Should Know

Gus Drugas

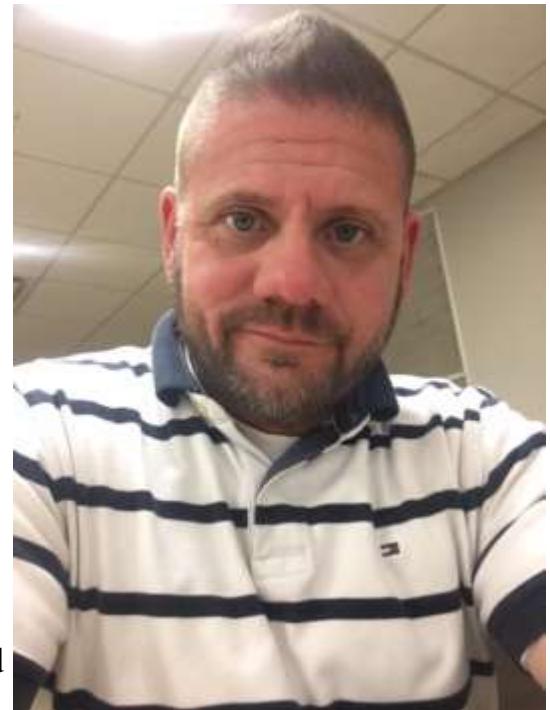
Gus Drugas's friendly and soft-spoken demeanor has made him a beloved member of our St. Basil family. He is always ready to pitch in and help, whether it be decorating icons for Holy Week, giving tours of our church for the Chicago Architecture Foundation, asking vendors to donate food for church events, or buying gifts for Angel Tree families at Christmas.

Gus is deeply involved in the life of the parish, but his first love is singing in the choir. He joined the junior choir when he was in the fourth grade at Koraes School at Saints Constantine and Helen Church. Over the years, he sang in the choir not only at Saints Constantine and Helen, but also at St. Nicholas Church in Palos Hills, Holy Cross Church in Justice, and at St. Basil. He served on the Choir Federation board for a year and was an enthusiastic volunteer when St. Basil Church hosted the Choir Federation Conference in October of this year.

Gus has an eclectic professional background. He worked for Southwest Airlines in various capacities for 27 years, most recently as a flight attendant. For seven years he was a partner in Ciao Amore, an upscale Italian restaurant in the Pilsen neighborhood. He put in long hours at the restaurant, as his father did in the family restaurant he owned when Gus was young. He eventually decided to switch careers. He earned a real estate license and is currently both a managing broker for Betancourt Realty and a certified instructor for the Real Estate Academy in Oak Lawn.

Gus's parents instilled the importance of the Greek faith in Gus and his four younger brothers. "When you're young, you go to church because your parents tell you to, but you don't really understand why," Gus noted. "Yet it plants a seed in you, and so now I see the value of attending church regularly. When I can't make it to Sunday liturgy, the rest of the week seems off-balance." Good Friday services are especially meaningful to him because that was one of the few times he could attend church with his dad.

Today, Gus lives in Lockport with his family. In his spare time he enjoys driving around the city and exploring Chicago's neighborhoods and architecture.



Dress a Girl Around the World — November 2, 2019

St Basil Philoptochos

7th Annual Metropolis Wide "Dress a Girl Around the World" Sew-a-Thon

Saturday, November 02, 2019 9am until 2pm

733 S Ashland Ave., Chicago IL 60607

312.243.3738

parking available across the street in the hospital parking lot



"If God Brings You To It, God Will Bring You Through It"
contact: Dorothy Bezemes 847.647.6665 or Helene Frankos 847.525.2107

Sip & Paint Event — November 9, 2019



Girl's Ministry Dress A Girl Cards — November 3, 2019

Girls' Ministry Present

Cards for

Dress A Girl Around the World

November 3 during Coffee Hour

Girls will make cards for Dress A Girl Around the World



Girl's Ministry Cookies for Veterans — November 10, 2019

Girls' Ministry Present

Cookies for Veterans

November 10 during Coffee Hour

Join us for a DELICIOUS treat that will benefit those who have
sacrificed much!



Stewardship Sunday — November 17, 2019



November is Stewardship Month at St. Basil!



Each week by Stewards of the Community following Liturgy
"Why do you come to St. Basil? Why are you a steward?"



November 17th

"What is Stewardship? What are the needs of St. Basil? How can you help?"

Stewardship 2020

"How is our Vision?"

Family Retreat — November 23, 2019

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH CHICAGO

SAVE THE DATE

FAMILY RETREAT



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 2019

9:30 AM - 7:00 PM

ST. IAKOVOS RETREAT CENTER
920 224TH AVE., KANSASVILLE, WI

More information
to follow



Upcoming Church Events



Do you work in the city of Chicago?
Would you like to attend Weekday Liturgies but cannot because of Work? Join us at St. Basil.

When: 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

November

1: SS. Kosmas & Damionos the Unmercenaries
21: Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

16: St. Matthew the Evangelist
25: St. Catherine the Great Martyr

Patronal Feasts for the Chicago parishes will not be celebrated at St. Basil

Please check the [St. Basil website calendar](#) for updates to above schedule. Liturgies are Livestreamed on the [St. Basil Facebook Page](#)



At St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
738 S. Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL

Weekly Meetings

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Paraklesis Service

6:45 p.m. Discussion

Quarterly Pot Luck for Students

Questions? Email us at
info@stbasilchicago.org

Upcoming Church Events

ADULT EDUCATION AT ST. BASIL

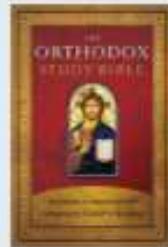
FALL 2019

September 10–December 17

Weekly on Tuesdays

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Located in the church hall and also online via Zoom Meetings. Link available in Bible Study page of website (www.stbasilchicago.org/biblestudy). This semester, in preparation for our pilgrimage to the Holy Lands, we will study the Gospel according to St. John.



7:00 p.m. Online Book Study—Blessed Darkness

Classes will be available online via Zoom Meetings. Link available in the Blessed Darkness page of website (www.stbasilchicago.org/blesseddarkness). This semester we will study—*Our Thoughts Determine our Lives* by Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica.



Monthly on First Tuesday of the Month

1:00 p.m. Lunch Faith Discussion

Join us for a lively discussion with Fr. Dimitri at a Restaurant (locations to be announced) each month. Come for fellowship, thoughtful discussions, and good food. Each individual is responsible for his/her bill at the restaurant.





HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

2020

Saint Nicholas—Holy Cross—Saint Basil's

Details

Please Join us for this wonderful trip to help bring the Gospels to life in front of our very eyes!

Have the opportunity to see the places where the most important aspects of Christ's life took place.

Take advantage of the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of our Lord. Come see the majesty of the Byzantine Empire, walk through the church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople and meet His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Come and see the ancient see of Saint Basil in Cappadocia.

Take advantage of reinvigorating your faith!



January 26th-February 6th, 2020

Final Cost to be determined

(Should be around \$3,400 to \$3,600)

Lodging, Breakfast & Dinner Included in Price

All that is missing is you!

What will we be seeing:

- Visit the church of the Holy Sepulcher where Christ was crucified, buried & resurrected.
- Visit Bethlehem and see the spot where Christ was first welcomed into the world at the magnificent Church of the Nativity. See the Shepard field where the angels appeared to the shepards!
- Experience Galilee where Christ first called the Apostles & began His earthly ministry.
- See the spot where the Annunciation took place in Nazareth.
- Visit Constantinople the Jewel of Orthodoxy. See the Phanar home of the Patriarchate & many ancient churches.
- See the Cappadocian Caves and see the Ancient throne of Saint Basil the Great.

It's that Time of Year ...



Christmas Time ...

Time

Imagine if all the presents St. Basil parishioners bought on Amazon.com at Christmas time, and around the year for that matter, resulted in Amazon making a contribution to St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church.

The Amazon Smile program does just that. In the first quarter of 2019 Amazon contributed just under \$20 to our church from the purchases of a handful of church members. Imagine again if all of our purchases, netted 0.5% for each expenditure.

Here's how you can make that happen:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?q=St.+Basil+Greek+Orthodox+Church>
2. Sign into Amazon Smile with your same username and password, as you would to Amazon.
3. Select St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago IL

A screenshot of the Amazon Smile charity selection page. It shows three options for selecting a charity:

- St Basil Greek Orthodox Church (San Juan Capistrano CA) - A "Select" button is visible.
- St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church (Chicago IL) - An "About" link and a "Select" button are visible. This option is circled in red.
- St Basil Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church (Watervliet NY) - An "About" link and a "Select" button are visible.

4. Whenever purchasing from Amazon, make sure you buy your items from [Smile.Amazon.Com](#) (you will not need to select your charity again when you sign in).

Encourage your friends and family to make St. Basil Church their charity of choice.

For more information call Vicky Crosby at the St. Basil office, 312-243-3738 or Steve Cole, 312-493-4063.

November 1 - SS. Cosmas & Damianos the Unmercenarys



These Saints were from Asia (that is, Asia Minor). After the death of their father, their Christ-loving mother Theodota reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue, and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike; because of this, they are called "Unmercenarys." And thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Sainted Unmercenarys and Wonder Workers, regard our infirmities; freely you have received, freely share with us.

November 8 - Synaxis of the Angels



All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, - sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation - (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable (Deut. 32:8); and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard them that hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him in our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Esaias 6:2-3; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:7). In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Catholic Church, wisely honouring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name. The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and Gabriel means "God is mighty." The number of Angels is not defined in the divine Scriptures, where Daniel says that thousands of thousands ministered before Him, and ten thousands of ten thousands attended upon Him - (Dan. 7:10). But all of them are divided into nine orders which are called Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

O Commanders of the Heavenly Host, we the unworthy beseech you, that through your entreaties you will fortify us, guarding us in the shelter of the wings of your ethereal glory, even as we fervently bow before you crying: "Deliver us from all danger, as Commanders of the Powers on high!"

November 9 - St. Nektarios



Saint Nektarios was born in Selyvria of Thrace on October 1, 1846. After putting himself through school in Constantinople with much hard labour, he became a monk on Chios in 1876, receiving the monastic name of Lazarus; because of his virtue, a year later he was ordained deacon, receiving the new name of Nektarios. Under the patronage of Patriarch Sophronius of Alexandria, Nektarios went to Athens to study in 1882; completing his theological studies in 1885, he went to Alexandria, where Patriarch Sophronius ordained him priest on March 23, 1886 in the Cathedral of Saint Sabbas, and in August of the same year, in the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, made him Archimandrite. Archimandrite Nektarios showed much zeal both for preaching the word of God, and for the beauty of God's house. He greatly beautified the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, and years later, when Nektarios was in Athens, Saint Nicholas appeared to him in a dream, embracing him and telling him he was going to exalt him very high.

On January 15, 1889, in the same Church of Saint Nicholas, Nektarios was consecrated Metropolitan of the Pentapolis in eastern Libya, which was under the jurisdiction of Alexandria. Although Nektarios' swift ascent through the degrees of ecclesiastical office did not affect his modesty and childlike innocence, it aroused the envy of lesser men, who convinced the elderly Sophronius that Nektarios had it in his heart to become Pa-

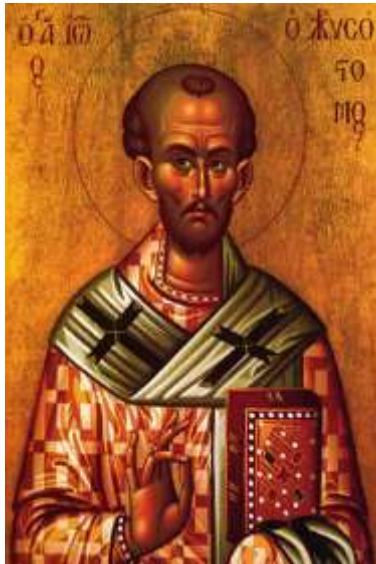
On May 3, 1890, Sophronius relieved Metropolitan Nektarios of his duties; in July of the same year, he commanded Nektarios to leave Egypt.

Without seeking to avenge or even to defend himself, the innocent Metropolitan left for Athens, where he found that accusations of immorality had arrived before him. Because his good name had been soiled, he was unable to find a position worthy of a bishop, and in February of 1891 accepted the position of provincial preacher in Euboea; then, in 1894, he was appointed dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School in Athens. Through his eloquent sermons his unwearying labours to educate fitting men for the priesthood, his generous alms deeds despite his own poverty, and the holiness, meekness, and fatherly love that were manifest in him, he became a shining light and a spiritual guide to many. At the request of certain pious women, in 1904 he began the building of his convent of the Holy Trinity on the island of Aegina while yet dean of the Rizarios School; finding later that his presence there was needed, he took up his residence on Aegina in 1908, where he spent the last years of his life, devoting himself to the direction of his convent and to very intense prayer; he was sometimes seen lifted above the ground while rapt in prayer. He became the protector of all Aegina, through his prayers delivering the island from drought, healing the sick, and casting out demons. Here also he endured wicked slanders with singular patience, forgiving his false accusers and not seeking to avenge himself. Although he had already worked wonders in life, an innumerable multitude of miracles have been wrought after his repose in 1920 through his holy relics, which for many years remained incorrupt. There is hardly a malady that has not been cured through his prayers; but Saint Nektarios is especially renowned for his healings of cancer for sufferers in all parts of the world.

Apolytikion in the First Tone

O faithful, let us honor Nektarios, divine servant of Christ, offspring of Silivria and guardian of Aegina, who in these latter years was manifested as the true friend of virtue. All manner of healing wells forth for those who in piety cry out, "Glory to Christ who glorified you; glory to Him who, through you, wrought wonders; glory to Him who, through you, works healing for all."

November 13 - St. John Chrysostom



This greatest and most beloved of all Christian orators was born in Antioch the Great in the year 344 or 347; his pious parents were called Secundus and Anthusa. After his mother was widowed at the age of twenty, she devoted herself to bringing up John and his elder sister in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. John received his literary training under Anthragathius the philosopher, and Libanius the sophist, who was the greatest Greek scholar and rhetorician of his day. Libanius was a pagan, and when asked before his death whom he wished to have for his successor, he said, "John, had not the Christians stolen him from us." With such a training, and with such gifts as he had by nature, John had before him a brilliant career as a rhetorician. But through the good example of his godly mother Anthusa and of the holy Bishop Meletius of Antioch (see Feb. 12), by whom he was ordained reader about the year 370, he chose instead to dedicate himself to God. From the years 374 to 381 he lived the monastic life in the hermitages that were near Antioch. His extreme asceticism undermined his health, compelling him to return to Antioch, where Saint Meletius ordained him deacon about the year 381. Saint Meletius was called to Constantinople later that year to preside over the Second Ecumenical Council, during which he fell asleep in the Lord. In 386 Bishop Flavian ordained John presbyter of the Church of Antioch. Upon his elevation to the priesthood his career as a public preacher began, and his exceptional oratorical gifts were made manifest through his many sermons and commentaries. They are distinguished by their eloquence and the remarkable ease with which rich imagery and scriptural allusions are multiplied; by their depth of insight into the meaning of Scripture and the workings of God's providence; and, not least of all, by their earnestness and moral force, which issue from the heart of a blameless and guileless man who lived first what he preached to others. Because of his fame, he was chosen to succeed Saint Nektarios as Patriarch of Constantinople. He was taken away by stealth, to avoid the opposition of the people, and consecrated Patriarch of Constantinople on February 28, 398, by Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who was to prove his mortal enemy.

At that time the Emperor of the East was Arcadius, who had had Saint Arsenius the Great as his tutor (see May 8); Arcadius was a man of weak character, and much under the influence of his wife Eudoxia. The zealous and upright Chrysostom's unsparing censures of the lax morals in the imperial city stung the vain Eudoxia; through Theophilus' plottings and her collaboration, Saint John was banished to Pontus in 403. The people were in an uproar, and the following night an earthquake shook the city; this so frightened the Empress Eudoxia that she begged Arcadius to call Chrysostom back. While his return was triumphant, his reconciliation with the Empress did not last long. When she had a silver statue of herself erected in the forum before the Church of the Holy Wisdom (Saint Sophia) in September of 403, and had it dedicated with much unseemly revelry, Saint John thundered against her, and she could not forgive him. In June of 404 he was exiled to Cucusus, on the borders of Cilicia and Armenia. From here he exchanged letters with Pope Innocent of Rome, who sent bishops and priests to Constantinople requesting that a council be held. Saint John's enemies, dreading his return, prevailed upon the Emperor to see an insult in this, and had John taken to a more remote place of banishment called Pityus near the Caucasus. The journey was filled with bitter sufferings for the aged bishop, both because of the harshness of the elements and the cruelty of one of his 310 guards. He did not reach Pityus, but gave up his soul to the Lord near Comana in Pontus, at the chapel of the Martyr Basiliscus (see May 22), who had appeared to him shortly before, foretelling the day of his death, which came to pass on September 14, 407. His last words were "Glory be to God for all things." His holy relics were brought from Comana to Constantinople thirty-one years later by the Emperor Theodosius the Younger and Saint Pulcheria his sister, the children of Arcadius and Eudoxia, with fervent supplications that the sin of their parents against him be forgiven; this return of his holy relics is celebrated on January 27.

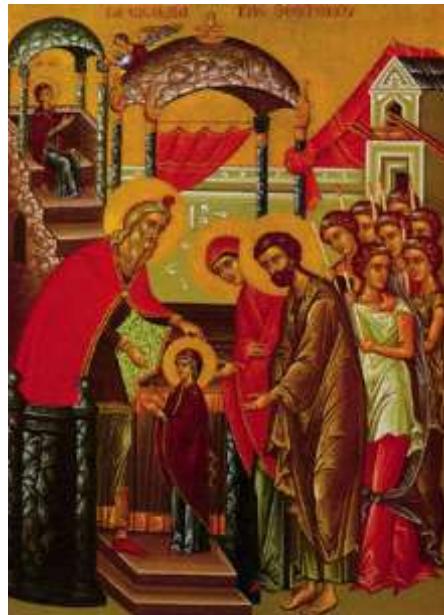
Saint John was surnamed Chrysostom ("Golden-mouth") because of his eloquence. He made exhaustive commentaries on the divine Scriptures and was the author of more works than any other Church Father, leaving us complete commentaries on the Book of Genesis, the Gospels of Saints Matthew and John, the Acts, and all the Epistles of Saint Paul. His extant works are 1,447 sermons and 240 epistles. Twenty-two teachers of the Church have written homilies of praise in his honour. Besides his feasts today and on January 27, he is celebrated as one of the Three Hierarchs on January 30, together with Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory the Theologian.

It should be noted that, because September 14 is the Exaltation of the Cross, the Saint's memory has been transferred to this day.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

The grace of your words illuminated the universe like a shining beacon. It amassed treasures of munificence in the world. It demonstrated the greatness of humility, teaching us by your own words; therefore, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede to Christ the Logos for the salvation of our souls.

November 21—Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple



According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

Today is the prelude of God's pleasure and the proclamation of man's salvation. The Virgin is clearly made manifest in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also cry out to her with mighty voice, "Hail, fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

November 25 - St. Catherine

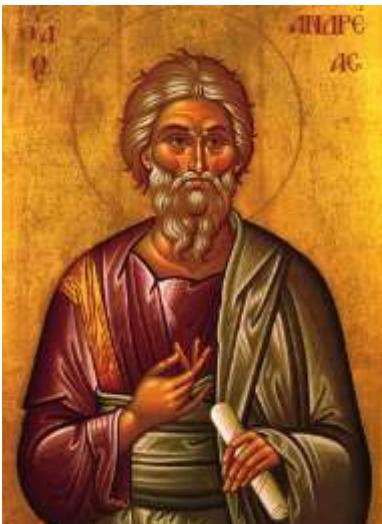


Saint Catherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constas (or Cestus). She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Catherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Catherine. According to the ancient usage, Saints Catherine and Mercurius were celebrated on the 24th of this month, whereas the holy Hieromartyrs Clement of Rome and Peter of Alexandria were celebrated on the 25th. The dates of the feasts of these Saints were interchanged at the request of the Church and Monastery of Mount Sinai, so that the festival of Saint Catherine, their patron, might be celebrated more festively together with the Apodosis of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos. The Slavic Churches, however, commemorate these Saints on their original dates.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the First Tone

Let us praise the most auspicious bride of Christ, the divine Katherine, protectress of Sinai, our aid and our help. For, she brilliantly silenced the eloquence of the impious by the sword of the spirit, and now, crowned as a martyr, she asks great mercy for all.

November 30 - St. Andrew the First Called



This Apostle was an Antiochean, a physician by trade. This Saint was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he was the son of Jonas and the brother of Peter, the chief of the Apostles. He had first been a disciple of John the Baptist; afterwards, on hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1.29,36), he straightway followed Christ, and became His first disciple; wherefore he is called the First-called of the Apostles. After the Ascension of the Saviour, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of Saint Andrew.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

As first of the Apostles to be called, O Andrew, brother of him (Peter) who was foremost, beseech the Master of all to grant the world peace and our souls great mercy.

St. Basil — 2019 Stewards

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| B Gregory & Maria Bairaktaris Theodora Bairaktaris John Bakopoulos Katy Balabanis Andrew Bannos Dr. Robert & Dr. Sophia Sarkos-Barnes Tom & Leslie Bezanes Dorothy Bezemis John & Patoula Billiris Matthew Bills John & Dr. Christine Bishop Nick & Angie Brinias John & Cassy Brinkman | K Senya Kalpake Stella Kapetan Aris Kapsopoulos Demetra Karas George & Karen Karas Vasili & Allison Karas Dean & Maria Kartsimas Zarif & Constance Karwandyar Ralli Katsikas Charles & Jean Katsoulis Evan & Eleni Katsoulis Nick Katsoulis Peter Katsoulis Dr. Kenneth & Arlene Kehl Anthony & Christina Kidonakis Vana Kikos John Koliopoulos Harriet Kollias Eleni Kontalonis Ryan & Maria Kanella Koper Phyllis Koumantos Vivien Kouros John & Eugenia Kourvas Constantine & Anastasia Koutsoubas Frank Kuchuris | R Jonathan Ramirez John Regas Robert & Irene Rohrman Anthony & Christina Rouches Demetra Rouches Sam & Christine Rousakis Ken & Helene Paspalas-Rubenstein |
| C John & Rachel Calash John & Venus Campanelli Joanne Chamis John & Eleni Chioros Chris Christides Ernest & Christine Schenk Cochranis Stephan & Patricia Patis-Cole Maria Constantinides Pam Cosmos Thomas Couston | L John & Anna Lambros Ekaterini Lekkas Andy Lipscomb David & Elaine Loomos Elias Loumakis | S Josh & Constance Sammartin Irene Santos Andrew & Elaine Satouris Christine Saucedo Jayme Schenk Konstantinos & Marisa Schoinas Harold & Cindy Schroeder Emily Sedares Nicholas Senopoulos Bill & Boriana Sianis Panagiota Sianis Paul & Pamela Sianis Tom & Eleni Sianis Grigorios & Debra Skourletos John Stathopoulos George & Anastasia Stefan Brian & Nicole Steinberg Kathy Stratton Irar Swiss |
| D Tim & Jenel Damis Anesti & Emily Dhima Anthony Dolas Matt & Alexis Douglas Petros & Nichole Drimonas Gus Drugas Alice Ducas Amelia Duka | M Dina Manasses Eleni Manasses Vicky Manasses Spiros & Sara Mantzoros Dean & Anastasia Maragos Juanita Marx Carl & Natalie Michas Harry & Kathy Michas | T Nicholas & Shari Thanas Gerasim & Edith Tikoff Dr. Richard & Angela Tobias Fr. Dimitri & Presvytera Mary Tobias Nick & Kristen Triandafilou George Tsagaris Maria Tsagaris Anthony Tsenes Sophia Tsilimigras George & Juliana Tziahanas |
| F Themis & Angeline Fabiatos Martin & Elaine Fosse Charles & Rosemary Fountas Ioannis Fountas Nicholas & Vicky Fountas Zach & Kalliope Fountas Tony & Georgia Fragale John Frangias Themis Frangos Andrea Frankos Tony & Helene Frankos | O Dr. Ben & Karina Onderdonk Jeffrey & Kalliope Osborne | V Catherine Valsamouli Dee Vergos Michael & MerryBeth Vithoulkas |
| G Nick & Jennifer Georgopoulos George Goltzos Christina Gountanis Melita Green Kevin & Kathryn Gulley | P James & Bess Pabin Demitra Panagopoulos George Panagopoulos Dimos & Angela Panousakis Rhonda Panousakis Sophia Panousakis Marcie Papadakis Bette Pappas Sam Pappas Lambros & Mary Peroulas Mark Phillip Katina Phillips Radoslaw & Olena Pietruczuk Alexa Plesiotis | W Kathy Walstrom Dori Walstrom Melanie Walstrom Charles & Katherine Webster Francis & Kanella Willsey |
| | Z Frances Zaroyiannis Georgia Zaroyiannis Ifyenia Zaroyiannis Kyri Zaroyiannis Melanie Zaroyiannis Sereke Zerayerus George & Dorothy Zimbrakos | |

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - November 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| | | | | | | |
| 3 Daylight Saving Time ends Orthros and Divine Liturgy Making Sack lunches for Lincoln Park Community Services | 4 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting | 5 10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Faith Lunch 7:00 pm Online Class | 6 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary | 7 7:00 pm Great Vespers of the Holy Angels (Niles) | 8 8:30 am "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Synaxis of the Holy Archangels (at St. Haralambos, Niles) 7:00 pm Great Vespers for St. Nectarios (Palatine) | 9 8:30 am "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for St. Nectarios" (Palatine) 3:00 pm Sip & Paint |
| 10 General Assembly Coffee Hour with Donations being given to Wounded Warriors (injured veterans) Orthros and Divine Liturgy | 11 Veterans Day | 12 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Vespers for St. John Chrysostom (Kenosha) | 13 8:30 am "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for St. John Chrysostom" at Monastery in Pleasant Prairie, WI 3:00 pm Philoptochos Baking 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary 7:00 pm Philoptochos Meeting | 14 | 15 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri | 16 Philoptochos Luncheon 6:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. Matthew the Evangelist |
| 17 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy | 18 | 19 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Online Class | 20 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary | 21 6:30 am Divine Liturgy for Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple | 22 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri | 23 |
| 24 No class - Thanksgiving break Orthros and Divine Liturgy Vespers of St. Katherine (Chicago) | 25 6:30 am Divine Liturgy for St. Katherine the Great | 26 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Online Class | 27 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary | 28 Thanksgiving Day | 29 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri | 30 8:30 am "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for St. Andrew the first called" (Chicago) |

SAVE THE DATE



Chicago, IL 60607

733 South Ashland Ave.

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church